

PAUL RAPPAPORT, 58, DIES; ENERGY EXPERT

International Authority on Power From the Sun Was Director of Leading Research Center

Dr. Paul Rappaport, an internationally known authority on solar energy and the founding director of the Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colo., died on April 21 (1980) at his home in Evergreen, Colo., after a long illness. He was 58 years old.

Dr. Rappaport was appointed the director of the solar institute, a branch of the United States Department of Energy, when the agency was started in July 1977. He helped establish the institute as a major center for solar energy research in the United States.

Dr. Rappaport was born in Philadelphia on March 25, 1922. He received a bachelor's degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1948 and a master's degree there in 1949. In 1973 he received a doctor of science degree from Arizona State University.

Worked at RCA Laboratories

The physicist joined the RCA Corporation in 1949 and held several positions at the company's David Sarnoff Research Laboratories in Princeton, N.J. Dr. Rappaport also did research on transistors and integrated circuits, but from 1953 until he left in 1977, most of his work was on energy conversion and solar photo cells.

Dr. Rappaport also served as editor of The Journal of Energy Conversion, held 13 patents and wrote numerous articles on energy conversion. In January he received the William R. Cherry Award, presented by the photo voltaics industry for his contributions to the field. A national fellowship fund in solar energy research will be established in his honor by the solar institute.

Surviving are his wife, the former Rose Goldblatt, and three daughters, Wendy Lewis, Candace Rappaport and Elycia Rappaport. A private memorial service was held last Thursday.